

Message Text

SECRET

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73

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 PM-09 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 GAC-01 USIA-12 TRSE-00

MBFR-03 SAJ-01 DODE-00 SS-15 NSC-10 OMB-01 RSR-01

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R 021820 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3573

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY OSLO

USMISSION NATO

CINCLANT

COMICEDEFOR

S E C R E T REYKJAVIK 0455

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR IC

SUBJECT: IDF RETENTION ISSUE

REF: STATE 81983

1. I MET JOINTLY WITH DANISH AMB KRONMANN AND NORWEGIAN AMB LYDVO THIS AFTERNOON AS PLANNED. THIS TIME ATMOSPHERE WAS VERY COOPERATIVE. IT WAS AGREED THAT BOTH AMBS WOULD TRANSMIT BACKGROUND TO THEIR RESPECTIVE GOVTS WITHOUT ANY SUGGESTION FROM USG AS TO WHAT NEXT STEP SHOULD BE. THEY WOULD SIMPLY STATE THAT I HAD BRIEFED THEM ON LATEST DEVELOPMENTS REGARDING SUBJECT, AND THEY IN TURN ARE TRANSMITTING THIS INFO TO THEIR GOVTS FOR WHATEVER ACTION THEIR GOVTS FIND APPROPRIATE. THEY WOULD ALSO STATE THAT THE ONLY COUNTRIES BEING INFORMED ARE THEMSELVES. ALSO US PERMREP TO NATO HAD DISCRETION TO ADVISE SEC GEN LUNS. IN ANSWER TO QUESTION FROM LYDVO, I REMARKED CONCEIVABLE US PERMREP MIGHT CONTACT THEIR PERMREPS.

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2. LYDVO EXPLAINED AT THIS MEETING HIS HESITANCY OF LAST WEEK. HE SAID THAT WHILE BRIEFING HIMSELF ON HIS ARRIVAL AT THIS POST, HE HAD FOUND IN HIS FILES INFO THAT FONMIN AGUSTSSON PROMISED HIS PREDECESSOR THAT, BEFORE GOI CONTEMPLATES TAKING ANY ACTION ON THE DEFENSE FORCE ISSUE, HE WOULD ADVISE THE NORWEGIAN AMB. HE ASSUMED THIS PROMISE WAS STILL APPLICABLE AND WAS, THEREFORE, HESITANT TO MAKE A MOVE BEFORE FONMIN APPROACHED HIM. SECONDLY, HE HAS A TRANSMISSION PROBLEM ON CLASSIFIED INFO. HE SAID HIS EMBASSY IS IN A MESS, AND HE CURRENTLY HAS NO TRANSMISSION FACILITIES FOR CLASSIFIED INFO. AMB KRONMANN TOLD LYDVO THAT IF INDEED FONMIN AGUSTUSSON MADE SUCH A PROMISE TO THE NORWEGIAN AMBASSADOR IN 1971, HE HAS PROBABLY FORGOTTEN ABOUT IT AND FELT THAT THE IMPORTANT THING STILL WAS TO GET THE INFO TO THEIR RESPECTIVE GOVTS. LYDVO THEN STATED HE HAS BEEN TRYING TO FIND A REASON TO GO TO OSLO AND MAYBE HE WOULD DELIVER THIS MESSAGE PERSONALLY. KRONMANN SAID HE WOULD HELP LYDVO GET THE INFO TRANSMITTED, BUT DID NOT EXPLAIN HOW IN MY PRESENCE.

3. I DID NOT INFORM THE TWO AMBS I HAD HEARD THAT THE GOVT MIGHT ALREADY HAVE APPROVED THE INVOKING OF ARTICLE VII BECAUSE I FELT THIS WOULD DAMPEN THE ENTHUSIASM THAT THESE TWO GENTLEMEN SUDDENLY WERE SHOWING. I DID SAY, HOWEVER, THAT IT IS CONCEIVABLE, SINCE I LAST TALKED TO THE FONMIN, THAT HE MAY HAVE RECOMMENDED THIS STEP TO THE CABINET. IRVING

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